

Technical Assistance for Community Adaptation State Programs

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Maine’s technical assistance programs

- DACF [Municipal Planning Assistance Program](#) (MPAP)
 - Two staff
 - Regional planning orgs
 - Adaption Guidance Series
- DMR Coastal Program
 - [Coastal Communities Grant Program](#): The coastal community competitive grant program provides funds to towns and regional organizations for projects in the areas of public access, water quality improvement, storm hazard resiliency, and marine-related economic development.
 - [Small Harbor Improvement Grant Program](#): Maine DOT program provides funds to protect/enhance harbor infrastructure
 - [Shore and Harbor Planning Grants Program](#): This program provides funding to promote sound waterfront planning, harbor management, and balanced development of shore and harbor areas to improve marine infrastructure and assure access to the shore. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available for municipal and regional projects in coastal towns.
- MICA: coordination among agency staff to help municipalities with planning projects (includes DEP, DACF-MGS, DACF-MPAP, IFW, DMR-CP)

Common components and practices across state programs

- Initial local commitment is required via enrollment, registration, or resolution
- Certification of achievements unlocks eligibility for larger grants
 - Achievement levels (gold/silver/bronze, etc.)
- State maintains a clearinghouse website for science, decision support tools, and examples
 - MA clearinghouse had site development assistance from NYSERDA
- State-approved list of service providers and facilitators in the private/NGO sector

State technical assistance programs

Massachusetts: The [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program](#) provides support for cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action grant funding and other opportunities.

Grant recipients receive designation from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as a Climate Change Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program municipality. Once awarded, MVP certified providers who are trained in leading workshops provide technical assistance to communities in completing the assessment and resiliency plan using the Community Resilience Building Framework. Yearly progress reports are required to maintain certification.

The program helps communities to: 1) Define climate related hazards; 2) Understand how they may be impacted by climate change utilizing the latest science and data at resilientMA.org; 3) Identify existing and future climate vulnerabilities and strengths; 4) Identify opportunities to take action to reduce risk and build resilience; and 5) Implement priority actions identified through the planning process.

- Planning grants: \$15K-100K (~\$1M available annually, avg grant \$27K)
 - Lead a community-driven planning process following CRB workshop model
 - State-certified service providers (workshop facilitators), toolkit, and climate data
 - Completion = certification as MVP Community and eligibility for Action Grants
- Action grants: \$25K-\$2M (\$10M available annually, ~36 awards/year, avg grant \$390K)
 - eligibility only for MVP certified communities
 - implement actions identified during planning process (detailed risk assessments, public education, bylaw/ordinance changes, engineering/construction, energy resilience, chemical safety, nature-based projects, acquisition, ecological restoration, low-income housing, mosquito control)
- Funding by annual state bond (? – need to verify)
 - Senate Bill 10 (2019) proposed a deeds excise tax increase to provide \$137M annually (\$1B over 10 years) as a recurring, long-term revenue stream that could enable multi-year project funding.
- Additional material: MVP [website](#), [PowerPoint](#), [GCC](#)

Other assistance programs in Massachusetts

- [StormSmart Coasts Program & Coastal Resilience Grant Program](#) provides information, strategies, and tools to help communities and people working and living on the coast to address the challenges of erosion, flooding, storms, sea level rise, and other climate change impacts. The program also promotes effective management of coastal landforms, such as beaches and dunes.
 - \$2-3million/year in grants;
 - Also funded through state bond (?)
- Barnstable County/Woods Hole Sea Grant [Regionally-Managed Community Rating System Program](#) provides a Community Rating System (CRS) and Floodplain Coordinator position to be shared by 12 towns on Cape Cod. The program has saved 3,000 policyholders a cumulative \$420,000 in premiums. Projected annual savings of \$900K in 2020. ([1-pager](#))

Rhode Island: The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank’s [Municipal Resilience Program](#) provides direct support to cities and towns to complete a municipal-driven process that will bring together climate change information and local knowledge to identify top hazards, current challenges, and community strengths. This process will identify priority projects and strategies to improve the municipality’s resilience to all natural and climate-related hazards using a flexible, tested approach called Community Resilience Building (CRB). Upon successful completion of the CRB process, municipalities are designated as a “Resilient Rhody Municipality” which enables municipalities to apply for dedicated action grants to implement identified projects.

- Program is led by [Rhode Island’s chief resilience officer](#)
- Trained CRBF facilitators (with TNC support)
- \$1M available in action grants for 2019 cohort of five communities (25% local match required). Addition \$1M available for 2020 cohort.
- Funded by: ??
- Additional material: [RIIB Spotlight \(NRCD\)](#)

New York: The [Climate Smart Communities](#) (CSC) helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Communities register with the CSC Program, by making a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge. Certified communities (gold, silver, bronze) are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level. The CSC Program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles.

Regional coordinators provide free technical support to local governments to implement clean energy projects and work toward CSC certification levels. The regional coordinators provide on-demand consulting services, including assistance with templates (e.g., for legislation and procurement) and guidance on taking advantage of funding opportunities. These coordinators are funded by the NY State Energy Research & Development Agency (NYSERDA).

- State-offered services include: direct technical support, monthly webinar series, community [Guide to Local Action](#)
 - In 2017, NY launched a [Climate Smart Resiliency Planning tool](#) to help local governments work across sectors to plan for climate change. The tool helps local governments incorporate climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness strategies

into existing planning documents by providing resources to help jurisdictions identify vulnerabilities, assess risks, and implement adaptation actions.

- May 2016, NYSERDA launched a [Climate Change Clearinghouse](#) to provide a single source of climate science and information for decisionmakers at all levels of government in the state. The state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) also maintains a list of [case studies of communities with climate action or energy plans](#) throughout the state that can serve as a peer-learning resource for municipalities.
- State provides a 50/50 funding match to certified municipalities for climate adaptation and mitigation projects:
 - (1) non-power sector adaptation and mitigation projects that can reduce a municipality's flood risk or increase its climate resilience by, for example, relocating or retrofitting vulnerable facilities or restoring wetlands and natural buffers; and
 - (2) adaptation, land use, and municipal fleet management or other projects, like preparing climate vulnerability assessments or adaptation plans, that support a community's ability to become certified
- Funded by: ??
- Additional material: NYSERDA [CSC website](#), [GCC](#)

Minnesota: [Minnesota GreenStep Cities](#) is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. This free continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, is based upon a menu of 29 optional best practices (several practices address adaptation/resilience). Each best practice can be implemented, as decided by city elected officials, staff and community members, by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These voluntary actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation.

As a non-regulatory program, GreenStep learns from Minnesota cities and assistance providers, and continually refines the best practice actions and the resources for taking action. The program also benefits from contact with a dozen other GreenStep-like programs across the nation.

- Cities earn recognition as they work through a 5-step process
- Requirements are scaled by city capacity, A/B/C categories based on 11-question [questionnaire](#)
- 5 Program Areas: Buildings/Lighting, Land Use, Transportation, Environment, Resilience Economic & Community Development
 - Best practices and model ordinances for each
- Model ordinances for sustainable development offered
- No grants offered
- Funding: Program operating funding from state agencies' budgets and philanthropic foundations.

California: California does not have a central technical assistance program. However, several state entities and regional efforts are filling the gap. A 2019 paper by the Legislative Analyst's Office makes recommendations for supporting local adaptation in coastal communities.

- The California [Strategic Growth Council](#)

- o offers six technical assistance and capacity building programs that promote sustainability, health, and equity with a focus on under-resourced communities.
 - o Mostly focused on emissions reductions.
 - o Grant awards from \$250K to \$30M+.
 - o Funded through the state's cap-and-trade program.
- The Governor's Office of Planning and Research houses the [Integrated Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Program](#) (ICARP) which maintains the State's Adaptation Clearinghouse, [resilientCA.org](#).
 - o No technical assistance or grantmaking.
- Regional/Multijurisdictional Climate Adaptation Collaboratives
 - o 7 regional collaboratives provide capacity and coordination for local governments. A total of 12-15 may be needed to geographically cover the entire state.
 - o May address regional scale concerns (SLR, transportation, downscaled data needs, etc.)
 - o Some collaboratives are funded by member dues, others by grants.

Florida: The [Florida Resilient Coastlines Program](#) offers technical assistance and funding to coastal communities dealing with increasingly complex flooding, erosion and habitat shifts. 1) Providing funding and technical assistance to prepare Florida's coastal communities; and 2) Continuing to promote and ensure a coordinated approach to sea level rise planning among state, regional and local agencies.

[Resilience Planning Grants](#) for communities. Program is funded by the Florida Coastal Management Program in partnership with NOAA, and by the Florida Legislature

- o In 2019, Governor DeSantis created the [chief resilience officer](#) position to coordinate and support state and local adaptation activities. The CRO reports to the Executive Office of the Governor.

Funding sources for technical assistance programs and grants

- State bonds
 - o Downside of bonds is the limitation to single year funding. Need a sustainable annual revenue generator for multi-year grant funding to communities
- Recurring revenue streams
 - o Excise fees on deed transfers, real estate transactions (Approximately 17,800 home sales in ME in 2018 generated \$17M in transfer fees for the state.)
 - o Utility fees on impervious surface, lot size, assessed value, etc.

Best practices

- Supporting regional-scale assistance and collaboration on adaptation:
 - leverages Maine's previous experience with regional planning organizations
 - builds/pools capacity for smaller communities
 - leverages cost efficiencies
 - institutes continuity and accountability across communities and time
 - o Encourage regional plans and implementation projects
 - o Allow grants to be awarded to multiple jurisdictions or to regional entities
- Establish a state office and/or chief resilience officer to coordinate and support adaptation activities and needs across communities, regions, and levels of government

- Train and certify NGO/private sector service providers to fill capacity gap (fosters job creation and reduces number of new hires needed for state government)